

OLC 71-1161

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4 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman F. Edward Hebert re
Enhanced Role of the DCI

1. When I explained in general terms the forthcoming White House announcement on the above subject, Chairman Hebert's reaction was favorable. He remarked that the need for clarification and reinforcement of the Director's role, and tighter coordination within the community had long been apparent and the Administration's plans seemed to make sense. He said obviously a number of points required clarification and there would, of course, be some criticism. He recognizes that centralizing so much power in the hands of a single DCI will cause particular concern in the Congress, but he feels that by creating the Nedzi Subcommittee he is "ahead of the game" in this regard. He said that if the Nedzi Subcommittee had not already been created, the President's plan would require that it be created immediately in order to guarantee adequate congressional oversight of the new streamlined intelligence community.

2. Mr. Hebert expressed particularly high regard for the Director, remarking that nobody could be better qualified for these heavy responsibilities. He said the new plan had his full support and we should call on him at any time if we had problems on which he could be helpful.

3. He asked that I promptly brief Representatives Nedzi, Arends, Bray and Price and Assistant Chief Counsel Slatinshek (Chief Counsel Blandford is on military leave).

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject

1 - Rep. Hebert

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